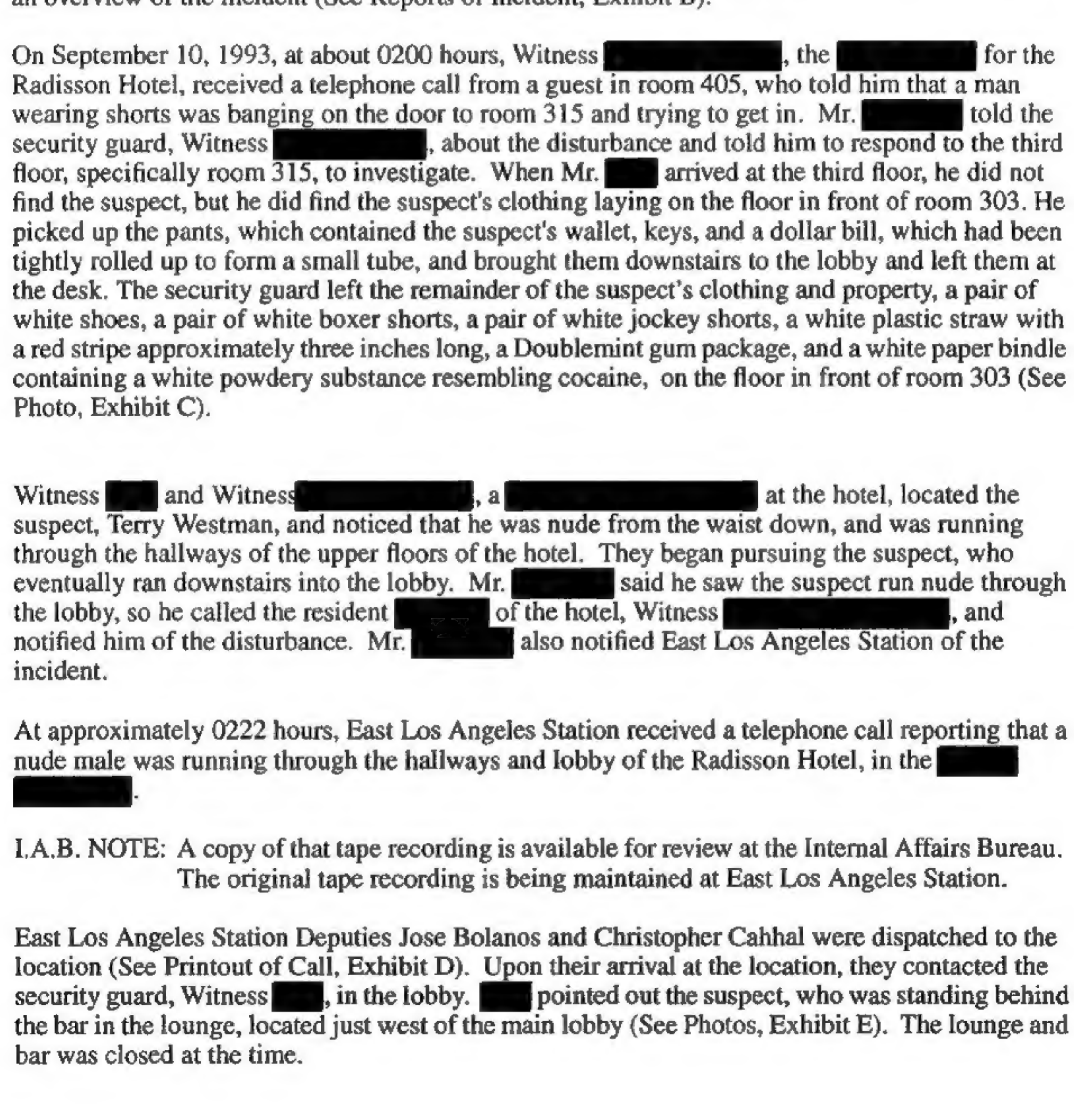
SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

FILE #I.A.B. 006043

The summary of this incident is based upon the reports, memos, teletypes, and taped interviews contained in this packet. It also contains information verbally relayed to the Internal Affairs Bureau investigators. This summary is preliminary and does not contain an interview of the deputies involved in this incident by the Internal Affairs Bureau investigators. Their account of this incident was obtained verbally from Derry Benedict, Lieutenant, Homicide Bureau. The first and supplemental reports written by East Los Angeles deputies assisting on this incident contain an overview of the incident (See Reports of Incident, Exhibit B).



On September 10, 1993, at about 0200 hours, Witness [redacted], the [redacted] for the Radisson Hotel, received a telephone call from a guest in room 405, who told him that a man wearing shorts was banging on the door to room 315 and trying to get in. Mr. [redacted] told the security guard, Witness [redacted], about the disturbance and told him to respond to the third floor, specifically room 315, to investigate. When Mr. [redacted] arrived at the third floor, he did not find the suspect, but he did find the suspect's clothing laying on the floor in front of room 303. He picked up the pants, which contained the suspect's wallet, keys, and a dollar bill, which had been tightly rolled up to form a small tube, and brought them downstairs to the lobby and left them at the desk. The security guard left the remainder of the suspect's clothing and property, a pair of white shoes, a pair of white boxer shorts, a pair of white jockey shorts, a white plastic straw with a red stripe approximately three inches long, a Doublemint gum package, and a white paper bindle containing a white powdery substance resembling cocaine, on the floor in front of room 303 (See Photo, Exhibit C).

Witness [redacted] and Witness [redacted], a [redacted] at the hotel, located the suspect, Terry Westman, and noticed that he was nude from the waist down, and was running through the hallways of the upper floors of the hotel. They began pursuing the suspect, who eventually ran downstairs into the lobby. Mr. [redacted] said he saw the suspect run nude through the lobby, so he called the resident [redacted] of the hotel, Witness [redacted], and notified him of the disturbance. Mr. [redacted] also notified East Los Angeles Station of the incident.

At approximately 0222 hours, East Los Angeles Station received a telephone call reporting that a nude male was running through the hallways and lobby of the Radisson Hotel, in the [redacted].

I.A.B. NOTE: A copy of that tape recording is available for review at the Internal Affairs Bureau. The original tape recording is being maintained at East Los Angeles Station.

East Los Angeles Station Deputies Jose Bolanos and Christopher Cahhal were dispatched to the location (See Printout of Call, Exhibit D). Upon their arrival at the location, they contacted the security guard, Witness [redacted], in the lobby. [redacted] pointed out the suspect, who was standing behind the bar in the lounge, located just west of the main lobby (See Photos, Exhibit E). The lounge and bar was closed at the time.

The deputies walked into the lounge, accompanied by Witness [redacted], and noticed the suspect was nude from the waist down and was only wearing a shirt. The suspect appeared to be working behind the bar and when the deputies attempted to talk to the suspect, he responded by saying that he worked there, then began making a number of statements including a barrage of nonsensical numbers.

I.A.B. NOTE: According to employees of the hotel, including the resident manager, the suspect was not an employee, nor was he a registered guest of the hotel.

As the deputies were attempting to communicate with the suspect, Witness [redacted] approached the suspect and grabbed him in a "bear hug" from behind. The suspect bent over at the waist and threw the security guard over his shoulder and onto the floor. The suspect then ran past the deputies into the lobby, then ran eastbound through the hotel hallway from the lobby. Both deputies pursued the suspect.

The suspect ran to room 106 where he stopped, and attempted to open the door (See Photo, Exhibit F). Both deputies ran up behind him, stopped and ordered the suspect to stop. The suspect turned around and faced both deputies with his hands raised. The deputies noted that the suspect was perspiring profusely and continued to rapidly call out numbers.

The deputies formed the opinion that the suspect was under the influence of a controlled substance, so they decided to place him under arrest. Deputy Bolanos grabbed the suspect's left wrist and Deputy Cahhal grabbed the suspect's right wrist. The suspect dropped to his knees, at which point the suspect was ordered to lay face down on the floor. After the deputies ordered him to lay down several times, the suspect was pushed to the floor by the deputies.
According to witnesses, the deputies gently pushed him to the floor.

Once Suspect Westman was laying face down on the hallway floor, he broke away from the grasp of both deputies, placed his hands under his chest and held them together. Both deputies began pulling on the suspect's arms in order to handcuff him. The suspect's grip could not be broken by the deputies, so Deputy Bolanos placed his handcuff on the suspect's left wrist and Deputy Cahhal placed his handcuff on the suspect's right wrist, while the suspect held his hands together at his chest. After struggling with the suspect and pulling on his arms for about two to three minutes, the deputies managed to force the suspect's arms behind his back where they handcuffed him.

Witnesses stated that neither deputy punched, kicked, or struck the suspect during this entire incident, nor did the deputies apply any pressure to the suspect's neck or chest area. The only time the deputies applied any pressure to the suspect, is when one of the deputies placed his leg on the suspect's buttocks to prevent him from getting up. According to the resident [redacted], Witness [redacted], the deputies used extraordinary restraint in dealing with the suspect, and, in his opinion, they should have used more force to control him.

Once the suspect was handcuffed, the deputies rolled him onto his side and saw that he was having difficulty breathing. The suspect stopped breathing, so they removed the handcuffs, requested paramedics and began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Once paramedics arrived, they administered emergency medical aid to the suspect and transported him to Santa Marta Hospital.

Doctor Diaz at Santa Marta Hospital examined the suspect and pronounced him dead at 0337 hours.